

CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Business Meeting
7:00 P.M.

February 1, 2011

POST SUMMARY MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairman Eldrin Bell, Vice-Chairman Wole Ralph, Commissioner Sonna Singleton, Commissioner Michael Edmondson, Commissioner Gail B. Hambrick, and Clerk Shelby D. Haywood.

1. Chairman Bell called the meeting to order.
2. A moment of silence was held in lieu of the Invocation. Pledge of allegiance to the flag was led by Chairman Bell.
3. Amended the agenda by holding item #12 (Resolution 2011-17 – Authorizing Clayton County to provide additional funding to the Clayton County Circuit Public Defender’s Office) and holding item #13 (Resolution 2011-18 – Authorizing Clayton County to enter into a lease agreement with the Hope Shelter, Inc. providing for the lease of property located at 170 Flint River Road, Jonesboro, Georgia to operate a homeless shelter for women and children). The agenda was adopted, as amended, as all commissioners had copies before them. Vote unanimous.
4. Approved the January 18, 2011 Regular Business Meeting minutes. Vote unanimous.
5. PROCLAMATION: “Clayton County Board of Commissioners Congratulates the Clayton County Football League's North Clayton Under 12 Eagles White Football Team.”
6. PROCLAMATION: “Clayton County Board of Commissioners Observes Severe Weather Awareness Week 2011, February 7–11, 2011.”

(NOTE: Group photos were taken, and Clerk Haywood read the two (2) aforementioned proclamations for the benefit of the audience.)

Chairman Bell stated that county staff members were honored last week for their outstanding performance during the inclement weather. He also recognized the presence of Dr. Evelyn Wynn Dixon, Mayor of Riverdale, Georgia, in the audience tonight.

7. Rod Gray, Director of Central Services, presented the following request which resulted in this action:

- 1) Approved a bid (RFP Pkg. #10-26; 8/24/10) for Clayton County Senior Services

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Food Service Operations, Annual Contract. Vote unanimous.

County representatives from the Clayton County Health Department, Extension Services, and Senior Services evaluated the proposal. They recommended awarding the contract to Aramark Corporation in Atlanta, Georgia, with the highest score of 441 and a fee of \$10,000.00 per year/ per facility.

8. Angela Jackson, Director of Finance, submitted these requests which resulted in the following actions:

1) Approved Budget Amendment #2-19 – Other County Government (FYE 6-30-2011), in the amount of \$17,800.00, to transfer funds to replace a van for Building and Maintenance [where the repair cost exceeds the vehicle value]. Vote unanimous.

2) Approved Budget Amendment #2-20 – Other General Government (FYE 6-30-2011), in the amount of \$132,000.00, to transfer funds to replace four (4) vehicles for the Police Department. Three (3) vehicles are a total loss due to accidents and one (1) vehicle's repair cost exceeds the vehicle value. Vote unanimous.

3) Approved Budget Amendment #2-21 – Sheriff (FYE 6-30-2011), in the amount of \$17,000.00, to transfer funds to reduce expenses for books and materials, to purchase doors with electronic access, laptops, and office supplies. Vote unanimous.

9. Renee Bright, Director of Human Resources, brought forth one item which resulted in the following action:

1) Approved a request from Juvenile Court Director John Johnson for an exception to Civil Service Rule 5.205 (Salary Adjustment Upon Demotion) for an employee who was reclassified in 2007 without an increase in salary. This employee is now requesting to move to her original position without taking a reduction in pay. Vote unanimous.

The employee did not receive an increase in salary moving to the higher level position. It is fair, therefore, that when moving back to the lower level position, the employee does not experience a pay reduction. In 2007, four (4) Juvenile Court Officer (Grade 18) positions were reclassified to

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Juvenile Court Officer II (Grade 19). At the time, these employees did not receive increases due to the reclassification. The new position was used to train and prepare employees for supervisory level position. This particular employee has changed her career path and does not intend to become a supervisor.

10. Approved Resolution 2011-15 authorizing Clayton County to enter into a Reimbursable Memorandum of Understanding with the Georgia Department of Human Resources on behalf of the Clayton County Extension Service providing for the terms and conditions under which Parent Aide Services will be rendered to the County. Vote unanimous.

11. Approved Resolution 2011-16 authorizing the acceptance of vehicles to be assigned to the Sheriff's Department fleet in a manner as will be in the best interest of the County (1998 Dodge Ram PU VIN# 1BTHC16X3W5580328; 2001 Ford Crown Victoria VIN# 2FAFP71W61X135901). Vote unanimous.

12. Approved Resolution 2011-19 to allow Caribbean Association of Georgia, Inc. to host the Third Annual "South Metro Caribbean Festival" at the Clayton County International Park. Vote unanimous.

13. Approved Resolution 2011-20 authorizing Clayton County to allow the Courtney S. Crooms Foundation, Inc. to sponsor and host the Fourth Annual Courtney S. Crooms' Memorial Girls Basketball Tournament at the Carl Rhodenizer Recreation Center and the Virginia Burton Gray Recreation Center. Vote unanimous.

14. Approved the reappointment of Gbenga Osagie to the Tax Assessors Board. The new term is for three (3) years; expiring on 10-25-13. Vote unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Oreatha Ensley requested that the Board reconsider its decision to increase the county's senior center membership fees. She also wanted to have a voice in decisions made regarding senior center members. Ms. Ensley stated she was aware that everyone was having budget problems. She recently attended a rally in Atlanta, Georgia where she talked to another senior who was alarmed to hear that the senior center she frequented was going to close. Meals

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at this center had cost \$1.25, and this senior was only able to afford one meal a day. Per Ms. Ensley, seniors have too much emotional stress and county government needs to respond because seniors cannot afford fee raises on a fixed income. She urged the Board to reconsider its decision so that seniors would not have so much stress over it.

2. Ida Knight, a county resident and senior citizen, voiced that the decision to raise senior center membership fees in this county was outrageous. All of the friends she had met at her senior center lived out-of-county, and they could not afford a sudden increase from \$10.00 to \$180.00 a year. Ms. Knight complained that the cafeteria (food) prices increased from \$4.00 to \$5.00 as well. All seniors get for that price is a piece of meat, bread, and a small amount of vegetables and starch. If a senior wants a salad or dessert, that costs extra (amounting to almost \$7.00). She believed this cost was also outrageous because one meal a day is all some seniors get, and the seniors cannot afford to pay \$7.00 a day.

3. Aisha Abdur-Rahman alerted the Board that she was reappearing to ask the Board to reconsider its decision to increase the senior center membership fees for both county and out-of-county seniors. She reminded the Board that seniors live on a fixed income; there has been no raise in social security rates in the past two (2) years and no raise is expected this year; and seniors simply cannot afford an increase in membership fees. Ms. Abdur-Rahman implored the Board to take this opportunity to come to the senior centers and town meetings to listen to what seniors have to say. She affirmed that governed people take governing much better when they participate in the governmental process. Ms. Abdur-Rahman added that the Senior Director does not avail herself to the seniors at the senior center where she is a member, and it would be nice if the director opened herself to listen and talk to the seniors there. She welcomed the opportunity to speak to the commissioners individually or collectively about this issue and expressed that other seniors would like to have that opportunity also. Seniors could contribute their ideas about alternative methods of raising county revenue instead of being subjected to a "Draconian" increase in senior center membership fees (which most people cannot afford). Ms. Abdur-Rahman pointed out that she had handed the commissioners a petition from the seniors, and she would be turning in more soon because the number of petitions is growing daily. Telephone numbers of contact persons will be a part of these petitions, in the event the commissioners are willing to meet with the seniors on an individual or collective basis. She welcomed the dialogue with the commissioners and asked them to respect the seniors.

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4. Pamela Noah informed the Board that she had submitted an open records request last week, dated January 25, 2011, to the Chief Staff Attorney (Michael Smith) and Information Technology Director (Brett Lavender) for the following information: 1) a duplicate copy of county-owned cell phone billing records for the time period of December 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010 for the five (5) commissioners; Brett Lavender; Wade Starr (Interim Policy and Planning Director); and Greg Porter (Chief of Police). Ms. Noah stated that she wanted these records to include incoming and outgoing calls made from these employees' county-issued cell and blackberry phones. She had brought three (3) copies of this request with her tonight to distribute to Chairman Bell, Chief Staff Attorney Smith, and IT Director Lavender. Ms. Noah concluded that she wanted a written response to her open records request.

5. Johnny Jones greeted the Board and stated he was present on behalf of many seniors who could not be here tonight. Some of those seniors were unable to drive at night, disabled or in wheelchairs, and suffering from afflictions of "old age." Mr. Jones stressed that these seniors could not afford the increased senior center membership fees that have been imposed upon them. Speaking for himself and as a representative for the aforementioned seniors, Mr. Jones urged the Board to do something to help them.

6. Vacal D. Caldwell waived his right to speak before the Board.

7. Van D. Caldwell waived her right to speak before the Board also.

8. Ali Abdur-Rahman expressed that he was presently a member of both the Frank Bailey and Charley Griswell Senior Centers in Clayton County. He requested that the Board reconsider its decision to increase senior center membership fees for in-county and out-of-county seniors. The annual fee increases are now \$10.00 for in-county seniors and \$180.00 for out-of-county seniors. According to Mr. Abdur-Rahman, no other county charges these fees. He emphasized that Henry County is free, and Fayette County is \$20.00 for in-county seniors and \$40.00 for out-of-county seniors. Personally, he felt these increases were outrageous and shameful. He ended his comments by saying, "Shame on the commissioners and the commission, and shame on the directors."

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9. Meshal Crooms (NOTE: There was no response from the audience when this name was called.)

10. Joe Eckler, as President of IBPO Local #702 and an advocate for public safety, addressed the Board with some startling facts. He stated that five million people a year are victims; a thousand people a day are rushed to the emergency room for treatment; it causes losses of over \$1 billion a year; and homeowners' insurance companies pay out over \$300 million per year. These quotes were not attributed to natural disasters but, rather, from the dangers of dog bites. Mr. Eckler further stated that since 80% of all dog bite fatalities occur in the dog's own yard, the IBPO requests the following: 1) no electronic fence should be considered to be a fence and 2) no electronic leash should be considered to be a leash. The IPBO wants the Board to prohibit dogs from roaming freely in their front yards without the confinement of a physical fence or a physical leash. He credited this research information to Attorney Kenneth Phillips (with his permission). Mr. Eckler finally expressed appreciation to this Board, on behalf of the IBPO Local #702, for taking the time to hear this brief report.